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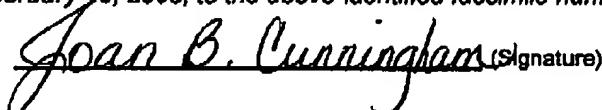
TO: Examiner, A.E. Pulliam - United States Patent and Trademark Office

Fax No. (703) 872-9307

Phone No. (703) 308-4710

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(signature)**FROM: Joan B. Cunningham**

Fax No. (513) 622-3300

Phone No. (513) 622-3993

Number of Pages Including this Page: 12

Listed below are the item(s) being submitted with this Certificate of Transmission:

- 1) Amendment Under 37 CFR 1.114 (8 pgs.)
- 2) Fee Transmittal (1 page)
- 3) RCE Transmittal (1 page)
- 4) Petition for Extension of Time (1 page)
- 5)

Inventor(s): Douglas Joseph Dobrozsi

S.N.: 09/361,542

Filed: July 27, 1999

Case: 7247M

Comments:

Case 7247M

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In the Application of : *21/Pre 7*
Douglas J. Dobrozsi :
Request for Continuation Examination Application :
Serial No.: 09/361,542 :
Confirmation No.: 5652 : Group Art Unit: 1615
Filed: July 27, 1999 : Examiner: A. Pulliam
Title: Oral Liquid Mucoadhesive Compositions :
Bet
2-11-03

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 CFR 1.114

Assistant Commissioner for Patents

Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

Please amend the above-identified continuation examination application as follows and consider the accompanying remarks.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel Claim 40 without prejudice.

Please amend Claims 36-39, and 41 to recite the following:

Claim 36. (Amended) A method of administering an active agent to one or more of the esophagus, stomach, and small intestine by swallowing a safe and effective amount of a mucoretentive composition comprising from about 2% to about 50%, by weight of the composition, of colloidal particles of silicon dioxide and a safe and effective amount of a pharmaceutical active selected from the group consisting of gastrointestinal agents, analgesics, decongestants, expectorants, antitussives, antihistamines, bronchodilators, topical anesthetics, sensory agents, and mixtures thereof, wherein the mucoretentive composition is an aqueous mucoretentive composition.

Claim 37. (Amended) The method of Claim 36 wherein the mucoretentive composition further comprises from about 0.005% to about 3% by weight of citric acid or a salt thereof.

Claim 38. (Amended) The method of Claim 36 wherein the mucoretentive composition is not further diluted with any liquid prior to administration and the level of colloidal particles of silicon dioxide is from about 3% to about 15%, by weight of the mucoretentive composition.